

Development Authority of Lumpkin County Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2014
Conference Room, Lumpkin County Administration Building

Board Members in attendance: Kathy Crafton, Jim Curtis, Donna Gessell, John Gaston, Jim Higdon, JoAnne Taylor, J. B. Jones

Associate Members/Guests in attendance: Chairman Chris Dockery, UNG Jane O’Gorman, Gerald Lewy

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Curtis at 9:00 am

Motion to approve agenda: Jim Higdon Second: J. B. Jones.. Motion carried.

Motion to approve July minutes: Kathy Crafton. Second: Jim Higdon. Motion carried.

Associate Members Reports – BOC Chairman Chris Dockery gave an update on activities and accomplishments in the County. Contracted with a facilities monitoring group to monitor energy consumption. Working to get all county vehicles marked as required by law. Frogtown Firestation bids due October 1. Assessors move has worked out well and a large screen TV has been installed in the administration building lobby for monitoring election results. County has paved more than 25 miles of roads and striped more than 35 miles. Safety training for active shooter scenario to be held in administration building. County has a strong fund balance. Money will be expended for the fire station and for much needed road dept equipment. Chairman and the Mayor forming a joint committee to look at mutually beneficial projects. A courtesy dock at reservoir will be one and steps down to the dam another. County repaved the parking lot the the Classic Cleaners building and have offered it to the City for additional bus parking.

You Are Why We Are Here Program from ACCG

Chairman Dockery reported for Water Authority – received a \$500,000 CDBG grant for water line extension to Camelot. GEFA loan in amount of 1mil with \$250k loan forgiveness for storage tank for GA400 area and an ARC grant of \$300,000.

UNG’s Jane OGorman reported the college is full with traffic jams at 8 and 3. Welcome night went really well, UNG has received a grant for science and leadership training for teachers to enhance public school sciences. Groups are using UNG for conferences. Chamber and UNG working to accommodate parking.

Financial reports

Monthly financial reports for May, June, July, Aug. presented by Treasurer Kathy Crafton. . Inaccurate balance from May has been corrected. Expenses are in line with expectations. Motion to accept financial statements: Jim Higdon. Second: J. B. Jones. Motion carried.

Treasurer Kathy Crafton reported on contracts for Audit Services and Bookkeeping Services. She noted that Rushton and Associates had performed our audit for the past 3 years and we had no issues. Kathy discussed the bookkeeping services currently performed by Bates Carter. She informed the board that they perform very basic bookkeeping services at a rate of \$135 per hour and opened the discussion for an alternative solution for these services such as doing them in house with an independent third party for oversight. Motion to re-examine bookkeeping options and to put audit out to bid: JoAnn Taylor. Second: Kathy Crafton. Motion carried.

Executive Directors report: Director Steve Gooch explained that the committee for the spec building needs to meet about design elements and will need to determine the price so the authority can explore financing options and present to the BOC. Prospect has signed a non-binding letter of intent to establish some contract items like a 20 year lease purchase option. Steve reported that the Norton Agency represents the prospect and has ask for real estate commission of 6% of sale price or one full month plus 5% per month of lease price. Motion to accept commission agreement as written: Donna Gessell. Second: Jim Higdon. Motion carried.

Director Gooch mentioned that the prospect for the GA400 property is still viable and Dan McRae is investigating financing options. Steve also reported the city and the distillery prospect for the Fieldale property are still trying to determine what must be done to permit the distillery on that property. The Get U Wired grant process may be changed to a competitive bid process per DCA. Lumpkin and surrounding counties have received Gigabit Community designation. Signs will be going up in the counties and a pamphlet has been created showing the footprint of the available broadband. Refrigiwear is reporting record sales and adding employees, a small restaurant is looking at land in the area.

Member Donna Gessell reported that Poly Portables has implemented a workplace education program. So far two employees have completed their GED and two more are getting ready to test.

Motion to adjourn: J. B. Jones. Second: Jim Higdon. Meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

Approved